Phil.3:13 Forgetting the things that are behind,

Matt.13:51-52 Have ye understood all these things? Therefore every scribe who hath been made a disciple to the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a householder, who bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.

Brethren, I count not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing I do forgetting the things that are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Things to forget & things to remember.
Things to leave behind & things to take along.
Read 1.

II. How shall we dispose of our regrets? Read 2.

III. What shall be our purpose for the New Year? Improvement.
Read 3.

OLD YEAR MEMORIES.

"Let us forget the things that vexed and tried us,
The worrying things that caused our souls to fret;
The hopes that, cherished long, were still denied u
us
Let us forget.

Let us forget the little slights that pained us,
The greater wrongs that wrankle sometimes yet;
The pride with which some lofty one disdained us
Let us forget.

Let us forget our brother's fault and failing,
The yielding to temptation that beset,
That he, perchance, tho grief be unavailing,
Cannot forget.

But blessings manifold, past all deserving,
Kind words and helpful deeds, a countless throng,
The fault o'ercome, the rectitude unswerving,
Let us remember long.

The sacrifice of love, the generous giving,
When friends were few, the handclasp warm and
strong,
The fragrance of each life of holy living,
Let us remember long.

Whatever things were good and true and gracious,
Whate'er of right has triumphed over wrong,
What love of God or man has rendered precious,
Let us remember long.

So, pondering well the lessons it has taught us,
We tenderly bid the year "Good-bye,"
Holding in memory the good it brot us,
Letting the evil die."

Susan E. Gammon.

3

IMPROVEMENT.

He came to my desk with a quivering lip,
The lesson was done--
"Dear teacher, I want a new leaf," he said,
"I have spoiled this one."
In place of the leaf so stained and blotted,
I gave him a new one all unspotted,
And into his sad eyes smiled--
"Do better now, my child."

I went to the throne with a quivering soul,
The old year was done--
"Dear Father, hast Thou a new leaf for me,
I have spoiled this one?"
He took the old leaf, stained and blotted,
And gave me a new one all unspotted,
And into my sad heart smiled--
"Do better now, my child."

2.

As a dead year is clasped in a dead December,
So let your dead sins with your dead days lie.
A new life is yours and a new hope. Remember
We build our own ladders to climb to the sky.

Stand out in the sunlight of promise, forgetting
Whatever the past held of sorrow or wrong.
We waste half our strength in a useless regretting:
We sit by old tombs in the dark too long.

Have you missed in your aim? Well, the mark isstill shining.
Did you faint in the race? Well, take breath for the next.
Did the clouds drive you back? But see yonder their lining.
Were you tempted and fell? Let it serve as a text.

It is never too late to begin rebuilding:
Tho all into ruins your life has been hurled,
For see how the light of the New Year is guilding
The wan, worn face of the bruised, old world.

———oOo———

4.

FORWARD.

At dawn it called,"Go forward without fear!
All paths are open: choose ye, glad and free."
Thru morning's toilsome climb it urged the plea,
"Nay, halt not, tho the path ye chose grow dear."
At noon it spake aloud,"Make smooth the way
For other feet. Bend to thy task, tho weight
Of sorrow press thee. Others dower, tho fate
Deny thy secret wish." Thru later day
It warns, "Climb on! Heights woo! The waning light
Bids haste! Yet scorn not those who lag behind,
Confused by lengthening rays that clear thy sight,
These,too,have striv'n all day their way to find."
At eve, when flaming sunset fades, O hear
Dawn's echoing call,"Go forward without fear."

Anna Garlin Spencer.